

THE WISE FARMER: A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE FARMER, HOMESTEAD, AND GARDENER.

RURAL LIFE, AGRICULTURE, MECHANICAL ARTS, LITERATURE, NEWS, &c.

Vol. XXXIX.

Maine Farmer.

HOMAN & BADGER, Publishers.

B. L. BOARDMAN, Editor.

Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man.

The Season and Crops of 1870.—II.

Yield and Quality of Crops.

The following estimates of the yield of the leading crops in Maine the past season, have been made by a laborious comparison of the returns of FIFTY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS, residing in different portions of each county in the State, with the returns of the Department of Agriculture for the past five years; and the census reports of 1860. The remarks relative to the amount of land in certain crops, their quality, &c., are also made up from the observations of our special reporters, occasional correspondents, and our personal observations and inquiries.

Hay. The yield of hay may be stated at from two-thirds to three-fourths of an average crop. In some instances, indeed, full average crops are reported, but they are limited to small sections of land in the best condition, and under high treatment; and while they help raise the average a very little, are chiefly important as showing what might be done if all farms were in that condition. It is a question whether the falling off in the hay crop was not in reality due quite as much to the drought in the fall of 1869, and the very unfavorable winter of 1869-70, as to the absence of rain during the early portion of the past season. Many fields were either bare or covered with ice for months in succession, during the coldest months of 1869-70, while during the early spring of 1870, the injury, especially to the old fields, from "spring-killing," was very extensive and serious. The crop, however, was secured in the best condition and is of the best quality. Farmers have largely reduced their stock, and will be, with the aid of rough fodder, roots and grain, to winter in good shape their remaining stock. Some good will also eventually come from this scarcity—as in reducing their stock, farmers at such a time dispose of that which is ordinary, keeping the best of each for their own use. The result of this will be that better flocks and herds will be found in barns and yards another spring than would be the case were a plentiful hay secured. The yield in Maine is not very far from 750,000 tons.

Corn. This crop, notwithstanding the severe drought, gave more than an average yield, with a full average amount of land planted. This result may furnish some hope, but it is perfectly plain to us. The early hoing which the Legislature, although urged to do so, has refused hitherto to pass any law relative to contagious diseases, and we may therefore expect it to spread. Farmers will do well to exercise the greatest caution in regard to the introduction of this disease.

nearly to the Laboratory and other buildings, has been constructed north as far as the residence of Prof. Fernald—a distance of one-fourth of a mile. It is intended that this shall be continued northward to the line of the college farm, again connecting with the public road—in forming its course, a half circle. This has been performed in a most thorough manner, and the work of graveling will be continued through the winter, until completed. The ground in front of the buildings is to be planted with a variety of ornamental trees, and that portion between the college drive and the public road graded and reserved for purposes of a lawn. The entire improvements we have been chronically, were superintended by Hon. Lyndon Oak, a committee of the Executive Board, appointed for the purpose, and with his excellent judgment, prudence and skill in such matters, the appropriation has been most judiciously expended.

The stock upon the farm at present consists of twenty-seven head of neat stock, fifty sheep, twelve swine, and three horses. There are fourteen cows, six of which are in milk—all of them good milk cows, but all grades or matutes. They have recently received a full blood Jersey bull, four years old, from the herd of Charles, Shae, Esq., of Dexter. The swine are full blood Chusters from stock of Calvin Cutler, Warren, Mass., and Hon. Warren Percival, of Cross Hill. The sheep are grade Cotswolds and South Down.

There are yet several items to which we have not alluded, but as our present article is already of sufficient length, must speak of them in another issue.

Foot and Mouth Disease in Cattle.

For some years, as many of our readers are aware, there has prevailed in portions of Great Britain a highly contagious disease among cattle known as the "Foot and Mouth" Disease. It is not usually fatal, like some others, but from an economical point of view it is scarcely less to be dreaded, since the helplessness of the animals during a long period, and the care and nursing required to bring them through a tedious illness, absorb the pecuniary value of them.

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The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

Foreign News.

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

The Faroese Hope of France.

London, Dec. 12. French dispatches say that the Army of the Loire is leading the faroese hope in its last struggle for France.

The Germans claim continued victories.

Reporters and Rumors.

The Germans are at every point of Paris.

The Duke of Rohan presents as fair a target as did the Strasbourg Cathedral. The opening of the bombardment is fixed for Dec. 19.

A rumor has been received of fighting to-day.

A correspondent with the Army of the Loire on 10th says that Frederick Charles has been repulsed with severe loss for the last three days.

It is reported that Garibaldi has resigned.

It is reported from Luxembourg that Montebello has been captured.

Bordeaux, Dec. 13. The following news is official.

The Duke of Mecklenburg on Wednesday attacked the town of Frevelen, on the road from Chateaudun to Vendome, which he occupies in strong force.

The Duke of Mecklenburg has troops with those of Prince Frederick Charles they engaged our forces in combat yesterday, near Vendome. The battle lasted until night. The enemy's were great.

News has been received that between the towns of Briare and Gien three battalions of Bavarians have been defeated by the Mobiles.

Scheme for the Restoration of Napoleon.

London, Dec. 15. A special news service from Paris says the Germans will immediately occupy Luxembourg a military necessity.

The correspondent of the *Wall Street Journal* at The Hague writes the statement that the King of Holland in November assigned the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to Prussia.

London, Dec. 12. Bismarck, in a circular to the North German Admiralty, dated Dec. 3, gives the order for the blockade of the Loire embankments, the facts that the Grand Duchy had forbade the transit of wounded Germans through its territory, had suffered the re-victimization of Thionville and omitted to pay the French arrears.

Versailles, Dec. 13. All of the journals denounce the course of Prussia toward Luxembourg as a wrong. The Tages pres impress the powers which guaranteed the neutrality of Luxembourg to rise and repress the insolence which makes all these latest valets.

Report of French Fighting and Surrender of Phalsbourg.

Berlin, Dec. 12. The Queen has received the following:

"Grand Headquarters, Tuesday Dec. 13.

After four days fighting around Beauvais the French retired to Blois and Tours. Their loss was severe. Many deserters came into our lines here at Rouen.

Report of English.

London, Dec. 13. — P.M. Phalsbourg is rendered to the Prussian troops.

The Prussian army has been marching to the south of Luxembourg.

Frederick Charles Outgeneraled.

Meng, Dec. 12. [Special to the *New York World*.] Prince Frederick Charles, generalissimo of the French, has outgeneraled his chief, Ducrot. Having his front constantly engaged while he turned his right flank and rear by sending the 18th division of the 9th corps along the south bank of the Loire the direction of Blois. The movement was executed quickly.

German Successes.

Since the ninth instant, the Germans encountered the 15th corps between Montlouis and Chambery, and drove them across the river at Blois, and they are now occupying the main mass of the army at that point.

The 3d and 10th corps of Germans continue the pursuit of the French toward the south and southeast, but have not yet proceeded in force beyond Bourges and Gien. The reported occupation of Bourges is correct. Still the Prussian troops state there is a considerable French force at Mire, supposed to be fragments of the 18th and 20th corps.

Food Scarce in Paris.

Paris, Dec. 9. Food is scarce and the weather is bad.

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Since the ninth instant, the Germans encountered the 15th corps between Montlouis and Chambery, and drove them across the river at Blois, and they are now occupying the main mass of the army at that point.

The 3d and 10th corps of Germans continue the pursuit of the French toward the south and southeast, but have not yet proceeded in force beyond Bourges and Gien. The reported occupation of Bourges is correct. Still the Prussian troops state there is a considerable French force at Mire, supposed to be fragments of the 18th and 20th corps.

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The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

Poetry.

CHRISTMAS CAROL.

BY J. G. HOLAND.

There's a song in the air,
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
And a child's lowly sigh.
A star stirs me to fire while the Beautiful sing,
For the manager of Bethlehem cradles a King!

III.

There's a tumult of fire,
Over the wondrous birth,
For the Virgin's sweet boy
Is the King of the world,
Ay! the star rains its fire and the Beautiful sing,
For the manager of Bethlehem cradles a King!

IV.

In the light of that star,
Lie the gods imperial;
And that song from afar,
Every heart is abeam, and the Beautiful sing
In the houses of nations that Jesus is King.

V.

We rejoice in the light,
And we echo the song,
That comes down through the night,
Ay! we shout to the glory they bring,
And we glad in his cradle our Savior and King.

Sister's for January.

Our Story Teller.

From Scribner's Monthly for December.

ULDHAH THE HELP.

I remember a story that Judge Balcom told a few years ago on the afternoons of Thanksgiving Day. I do not feel sure that it will interest everybody it did me. Indeed, I am afraid that it will not, and yet I can not help thinking that it is just the sort of a trifl

It was in the Judge's own mansion on Thirteenth street that I heard it. It does not matter to the reader how I, a stranger, came to be one of the Judge's party. Still, I could not enjoy the society of my own kind if it was an act of Christian charity that permitted me to share the joy of others. We had eaten dinner and had adjourned to the warm bright parlor. I have noticed on such occasions that people are apt to be more talkative than of their vitality, or for some other reason, at least so it generally falls out that people may talk even so brilliantly at the table, but they will hardly keep it up for half an hour if they are not interested in the party. The party fell to looking at the books and some to turning the leaves of the photograph album, while others were using the stereoscope. For my own part, I was staring at an engraving in a dark corner of the room, and did not have time out of its interest if I had desired—but in reality I was thinking of the joyous company of my own kith and kin, hundreds of miles away, and regretting that I could be with them.

"What are you thinking about, Papa?" asked Irene, the Judge's second daughter. She was a rather haughty-looking girl of sixteen, but, as I had noticed, very much devoted to her parents. At this moment she was running back through her father's hair, while he was rousing himself from his reverie to answer her question.

"Thinking of the old thanksgivings, which were so different from anything we have here. The same genuine thing; these are only counterfeits."

"Come, tell us about them, please." This time it was Annie Balcom, the older girl, who spoke. And we all gathered around the Judge. For him the winter entertainment was a divine, after the usual social call, dinner, dinner, dinner, it is very attractive to the whole company, and in whatever place it breaks out, there is soon a knot of interested listeners.

"I don't just now think of any particular store in New England. Thanksgiving that would interest you."

"Tell them about Hudlah's mince pie," said Mrs. Balcom as she looked up from a copy of Whittier she had been reading.

I am sure to give the story which follows in the Judge's words, for it is three years since I heard it, but as nearly as I can remember it was as follows:

There was a young lawyer by the name of John Harlow, practicing law here in New York, two years ago. He was a man, but not very far from my father. John had graduated with honors, and studied law, and had the good fortune to enter immediately into a partnership with his law-preceptor, Ex-Governor Balcom. He had a number of studies that for six years he had not seen his country home. I think one reason why he had not cared to visit it was that his mother was dead, and his only sister was married and living in Boston, and the "women-folks" out of a house, and it never seemed much like home to a young man.

But now, as Thanksgiving Day drew near, he resolved to give himself a brief release from the bondage of law, and to let his partner care for the work. He had not told his wife, but he wanted to see his father and the boys, and his sister who was coming home at that time, but he specially wanted to ride old Boston to brook one more, and to milk Cheshire again, just to see it felt to be a farmer's boy.

"John," said the old lawyer, "be you sure and sure, and I'll let him do his part, but I am not very far from my father. John had graduated with honors, and studied law, and had the good fortune to enter immediately into a partnership with his law-preceptor, Ex-Governor Balcom. He had a number of studies that for six years he had not seen his country home. I think one reason why he had not cared to visit it was that his mother was dead, and his only sister was married and living in Boston, and the "women-folks" out of a house, and it never seemed much like home to a young man."

"Gone," said the young lawyer, laying his hands gratefully on my top, a pile of law books, as I encourage him to do, giving his head the advantage of the lower end of the inclining plane, "Governor, I don't know anything about city girls. I have given myself to my books, and have a wife that is like me, like you, that can understand Emerson, for instance."

The old lawyer laughed. "John," he answered, "the worst mistake you can make is to marry a woman just like you in taste. You don't want to marry a woman's head, but her heart."

John defended his theory, and the Governor only remarked that he would be cured of that sooner or later, and the sooner the better.

The next morning he had a letter from his sister, and it was to the effect that she had written to him, and he had not

"I've concluded, old fellow, that if you do not marry you'll dry up and turn to parchment. I'm going to bring home with me the smartest girl I know. She reads Carlyle, and quotes Coleridge and Emerson. Of course, she don't know what I am up to, but you must prepare to capitulate."

John did not like Anna's assuming to pick a wife for him, but he did like the prospect of meeting a smart girl, and opened his eyes to the fact that he had not been misunderstood. He read again, "Understand Emerson." John was pleased. Why? I think he was vain of his own abilities, and he was a good romantic, and he could tell them. He would have told you that he was wonted congenital society. But congenital female society to an ambitious man whose heart is yet untouched is only society that, in some sense, abhors his own greatness, and admires his wisdom.

The old home they were looking for, the son, the family property consisted of the father, good Deacon Harlow, John's two brothers, ten and twelve years old, and Hudlah, and by giving his head the advantage of the lower end of the inclining plane, "Governor, I don't know anything about city girls. I have given myself to my books, and have a wife that is like me, like you, that can understand Emerson, for instance."

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